

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the anticipation rejection in the previous Action.

Applicants have added new claim 7, which finds support, for example, at page 7, lines 1-4, and in FIGS. 3 and 4. No claims have been amended.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,590,335 (Nagayama) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0142697 (Yamagata) and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0063844 (Matsuura). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites irradiating with a laser beam a region of the display panel that is away from the foreign substance so that a high resistivity region is formed as a result of a melting by the laser beam of the electroluminescent layer between the anode layer and the cathode layer and around the foreign substance. The Examiner admits that Nagayama does not disclose the claimed melting of the electroluminescent layer and instead contends that paragraph [0058] of Yamagata discloses this limitation. See page 3 of the Action. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Paragraph [0058] of Yamagata states that “the space between the cathode 205 and the anode 203 is made into as insulator” by laser irradiation, as the Examiner points out correctly. Based on this statement the Examiner’s contends that “[t]urning the EL layer into an insulator is essentially melting the EL layer.” See page 3 of the Action.

However, Yamagata does not support the Examiner’s contention. In fact, Yamagata explains that the turning of the defect portion 207 into an insulator is made by “oxidation.” See paragraph [0059] of Yamagata. Persons of ordinary skill in the art would have known that an oxidation of a defect portion does not amount to a melting of that portion, and, in fact, Yamagata does not disclose the claimed melting. Thus, Nagayama and Yamagata together do not teach or suggest the claimed melting of the electroluminescent layer. Matsuura does not cure this deficiency of Nagayama and Yamagata.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Nagayama, Yamagata and Matsuura should be withdrawn because they do not teach or suggest the claimed invention as a whole.

The remaining obviousness rejection relies on Nagayama, Yamagata and Matsuura and thus should be withdrawn as well because they do not provide the teachings for which they are cited.

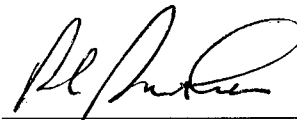
In light of the above, a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, referencing Docket No. **606402016100**.

Respectfully submitted,

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